

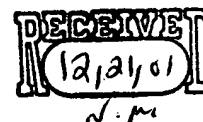
Our Docket No.: B588-025

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hideki Tanaka  
Serial No. : 09/991,620  
For : ORDER-ACCEPTANCE MANAGEMENT APPARATUS AND METHOD  
Filed : November 5, 2001  
Art Unit : 2167  
Examiner : Unassigned

Asst. Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Official



Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 2, line 2 and ending at page 2, line 11 as

follows:

-- When the decision as to which customers should be supplied with a commodity is left solely to the discretion of the sales manager, however, the criteria used differs from one time to another and customers are not treated fairly. This is undesirable. In addition, making the decision takes time and the procedure involved tends to be a complicated one. On the other hand, there are also instances where the manager wishes to supply preferred customers with a commodity on a priority basis. --.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to facsimile number (703) 746-7239 on the date shown below:

December 21, 2001

December 21, 2001

Date of Signature

MARY-ELLEN JINKINS

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# 2/A  
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